



City of Cincinnati

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TO ALL MEDIA

City Manager Announces New City Solicitor

Cincinnati City Manager Valerie Lemmie today announced the hiring of **Julia “Rita” McNeil** as the new City Solicitor for Cincinnati. McNeil, who is currently the Director of Law for the City of Dayton, will officially assume the position on August 12th upon the retirement of Fay Dupuis, current Cincinnati Solicitor.

As the City Solicitor, McNeil will manage a staff of about 83 people with an annual operating budget of about \$5.2 million. She will report directly to the City Manager. The Department provides all legal services to the City of Cincinnati by representing the Council, officers, departments and boards of the City as legal counsel and attorney, representing the City in all proceedings in which the City is a party before any court or adjudicatory body, serving as prosecuting attorney in the municipal court, and providing all services in connection with the acquisition, management and sale of real property, business and family relocation, and the levying of assessments.

McNeil graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.) from Howard University in Washington, D.C. She received her Juris Doctorate from the Ohio State University College of Law, where she was an OSU Merit Scholar. She has served as Dayton’s Law Director since October 1998. Prior to that she was the Section Chief for the Civil Rights Section for the Office of Ohio Attorney General Betty D. Montgomery. She has also served as a juvenile referee/magistrate in the Franklin County Courts of Common Pleas; as an associate with law firms of Crabbe, Brown, Jones, Potts & Schmidt and Schottenstein, Zox & Dunn; as Chief Legal Counsel for the Ohio Department of Commerce; and as Assistant Deputy Legal Counsel for Ohio Governor George V. Voinovich. She is a member of the Ohio State and Dayton Bar Associations, serves on Ohio’s Minority Development Finance Advisory Board, and was appointed to the faculty of the International Municipal Lawyer’s Association Institute for Legal Government Lawyers. She was honored as one of Business First Magazine’s “Forty under 40” and as a distinguished alumni by The Ohio State University College of Law Black Law Students Association.

“Ms. McNeil has the experience, skills and fortitude to lead Cincinnati’s Solicitor’s Office in the years ahead,” Lemmie said. “Her diverse background at the state and local levels has exposed her to a comprehensive array of legal affairs that make her well-equipped to handle the issues facing the City of Cincinnati. She has proven herself to be a tenacious attorney in protecting and defending the jurisdiction she serves. I am confident she will continue to be just as committed to the citizens of Cincinnati.”

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“I am very excited about joining the City of Cincinnati organization and working for the citizens of the community,” McNeil said. “Cincinnati is an exciting place to be – both personally and professionally. It offers new career opportunities for me while providing quality living and cultural amenities. I am anxious to get to work and contribute to enhancing Cincinnati’s reputation as a city on the move.”

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